

PRE

Princes must, by a vigorous exercise of that law, make it every man's interest and honour to cultivate religion and virtue, by rendering vice a disgrace, and the certain ruin to *pre-ferment* or pretensions. *Swift.*

2. A place of honour or profit.

All *preferments* should be placed upon fit men. *L'Estrange.*

3. Preference; act of preferring. Not in use.

All which declare a natural *preference* of the one unto the motion before the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREFERRER. [from *prefer.*] One who prefers.

TO PREFIGURATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figure*, Lat.] To shew by an antecedent representation.

PREFIGURATION. *n. f.* [from *præfigure*.] Antecedent representation.

The same providence that hath wrought the one, will work the other; the former being pledges, as well as *præfigurations* of the latter. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

The variety of prophecies and *præfigurations* had their punctual accomplishment in the author of this institution. *Norris.*

TO PREFIGURE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figure*, Lat.] To exhibit by antecedent representation.

What the Old Testament hath, the very same the New containeth; but that which lieth there, as under a shadow, is here brought forth into the open sun; things there *præfigured*, are here performed. *Hooker.*

Such piety, so chaste use of God's day,

That what we turn to feast, the turn'd to pray,

And did *præfigure* here in devout taste,

The rest of her high sabbath, which shall last. *Donne.*

If shame superadded to loss, and both met together, as the sinners portion here, perfectly *præfiguring* the two saddest ingredients in hell, deprivation of the blissful vision, and confusion of face, cannot prove efficacious to the mortifying of vice, the church doth give over the patient. *Hammond.*

TO PRÆFIRE. *v. a.* [*præfuir*, Fr. *præfiro*, Lat.] To limit beforehand.

He, in his immoderate desires, *præfired* unto himself three years, which the great monarchs of Rome could not perform in so many hundreds. *Knolles's Hist. of the Turks.*

TO PRÆFIX. *v. a.* [*præfixe*, Lat.]

1. To appoint beforehand.

At the *præfix'd* hour of her awaking,

Came I to take her from her kindred's vault. *Shakefp.*

A time *præfix*, and think of me at last!

Its inundation constantly increaseth the seventh day of June; wherein a larger form of speech were safer, than that which punctually *præfixeth* a constant day. *Brown.*

Booth's forward valour only serv'd to show,

He durst that duty pay we all did owe:

Th' attempt was fair; but heav'n's *præfix'd* hour

Not come. *Dryden.*

2. To settle; to establish.

Because I would *præfix* some certain boundary between them,

the old statutes end with king Edward II. the new or later statutes begin with king Edward III. *Hale's Law of England.*

These boundaries of species are as men, and not as nature makes them, if there are in nature any such *præfix'd* bounds. *Locke.*

3. To put before another thing; as, be *præfix'd* an advertisement to his book.

PREFIX. *n. f.* [*præfixum*, Lat.] Some particle put before a word, to vary its signification.

In the Hebrew language the noun has its *præfixa* and affixa, the former to signify some few relations, and the latter to denote the pronouns possessive and relative. *Clarke.*

It is a *præfix* of augmentation to many words in that language. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREFIXION. *n. f.* [*præfixion*, Fr. from *præfix*.] The act of prefixing. *Diët.*

TO PRÆFORM. *v. a.* [*præ* and *form*.] To form beforehand.

If you consider the true cause,

Why all these things change, from their ordinance,

Their natures and *præform'd* faculties,

To monstrous quality; why you shall find,

That heav'n made them instruments of fear

Unto some monstrous state. *Shakefp. Julius Cæsar.*

PREGNANCY. *n. f.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. The state of being with young.

The breast is encompassed with ribs, and the belly left free, for respiration; and in females, for that extraordinary extension in the time of their *pregnancy*. *Roy on the Creation.*

2. Fertility; fruitfulness; inventive power; acuteness.

Pregnancy is made a taper, and hath his quick wit wasted in giving reckonings. *Shakefp. Henry IV.*

This writer, out of the *pregnancy* of his invention, hath found out an old way of insinuating the grossest reflections under the appearance of admonitions. *Swift's Miscel.*

PREGNANT. *adj.* [*pregnant*, Fr. *pregnant*, Lat.]

1. Teeming; breeding.

Thou

Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast abyss,

And mad'st it *pregnant*. *Milton.*

His town, as fame reports, was built of old

By Danae, *pregnant* with almighty gold. *Dryden.*

Through either ocean, foolish man!

That *pregnant* word sent forth again,

Might to a world extend each atom there,

For every drop call forth a sea, a heav'n for ev'ry star. *Pri.*

2. Fruitful; fertile; impregnating.

All these in their *pregnant* causes mixt:

Call the floods from high, to rush amain *Milton.*

With *pregnant* streams, to swell the teeming grain. *Dryden.*

3. Full of consequence.

These knew not the just motives and *pregnant* grounds,

with which I thought myself furnished. *King Charles.*

An egregious and *pregnant* instance how far virtue surpasses ingenuity. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

O detestable, passive obedience! did I ever imagine I should become thy votary in so *pregnant* an instance. *Arb.*

4. Evident; plain; clear; full. An obsolete sense.

This granted, as it is a most *pregnant* and unforc'd position,

who stands so eminent in the degree of this fortune as Cæsar? a knave very voluble. *Shakefp. Otello.*

Were't not that we stand up against them all,

'Twere *pregnant*, they should square between themselves. *Shakefp. Antony and Cleopatra.*

5. Easy to produce any thing.

A most poor man made tame to fortune's blows,

Who by the art of known and feeling sorrows,

Am *pregnant* to good pity. *Shakefp. King Lear.*

6. Free; kind. Obsolete.

My matter hath no voice, but to your own most *pregnant* and vouchsafed ear. *Shakefp. Antony and Cleopatra.*

PREGNANTLY. *adv.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. Fruitfully.

2. Fully; plainly; clearly.

A thousand moral paintings I can shew,

That shall demonstrate these quick blows of fortune

More *pregnantly* than words. *Shakefp. Timon of Athens.*

The dignity of this office among the Jews is to *pregnantly* set forth in holy writ, that it is unquestionable; kings and priests are mentioned together. *South's Sermon.*

PREGUSTATION. *n. f.* [*præ* and *gusto*, Lat.] The act of tasting before another.

TO PRÆJUDGE. *v. a.* [*præjuge*, Fr. *præ* and *judice*, Lat.] To determine any question beforehand; generally to condemn beforehand.

If he stood upon his own title of the house of Lancaster, he knew it was condemn'd in parliament, and *præjudged* in the common opinion of the realm, and that it tended to the dishonour of the line of York. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

The child was strong and able, though born in the eighth month, which the physicians do *præjudge*. *Bacon.*

The committee of council hath *præjudged* the whole case, by calling the united sense of both houses of parliament an universal clamour. *Swift.*

Some action ought to be entered, lest a greater cause should be injured and *præjudged* thereby. *Swift.*

TO PRÆJUDICATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *judico*, Lat.] To determine beforehand to disadvantage.

Our dearest friend

Præjudicates the business, and would seem

To have us make denial. *Shakefp. Antony and Cleopatra.*

Are you, in favour of his person, bent

Thus to *præjudicate* the innocent? *Sandys.*

PRÆJUDICATE. *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Formed by prejudice; formed before examination.

This rule of casting away all our former *præjudicate* opinions, is not proposed to any of us to be practised at once as subjects or christians, but merely as philosophers. *Watts.*

2. Prejudiced; prepossessed.

Their works will be embraced by most that understand them, and their reasons enforce belief from *præjudicate* readers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PRÆJUDICATION. *n. f.* [from *præjudicate*.] The act of judging beforehand.

PRÆJUDICE. *n. f.* [*præjudice*, Fr. *præjudicium*, Lat.]

1. Prepossession; judgment formed beforehand without examination. It is used for prepossession in favour of any thing or against it. It is sometimes used with *to* before that which the *præjudice* is against, but not properly.

The king himself frequently considered more the person who spoke, as he was in his *præjudice*, than the counsel itself that was given. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

My comfort is, that their manifest *præjudice* to my cause will render their judgment of less authority. *Dryden.*

There is an unaccountable *præjudice* to projectors of all kinds, for which reason, when I talk of practising to fly, silly people think me an owl for my pains. *Addison.*

2. Mischief; detriment; hurt; injury. This sense is only accidental or consequential; a *bad thing* being called a *præjudice*, only because *præjudice* is commonly a *bad thing*, and is not derived from the original or etymology of the word: it were therefore better to use it less; perhaps *præjudice* ought never to be applied to any mischief, which does not imply some partiality or prepossession. In some of the following examples its impropriety will be discovered. *I have*

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I have not spake one the least word,

That might be *prejudice* of her present state,

Or touch of her good person. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*

England and France might, through their amity,

Breed him some *prejudice*; for from this league

Peep'd harms that menac'd him. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*

Factions carried too high and too violently, is a sign of weakness in princes, and much to the *prejudice* of their authority and business. *Bacon.*

How plain this abuse is, and what *prejudice* it does to the understanding of the sacred scriptures. *Locke.*

A prince of this character will instruct us by his example, to fix the unsteadiness of our politics; or by his conduct hinder it from doing us any *prejudice*. *Addison.*

TO PRÆJUDICE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To prepossess with unexamined opinions; to fill with prejudices.

Half-pillars wanted their expected height,

And roofs imperfect *præjudic'd* the sight. *Prior.*

Suffer not any beloved study to *præjudice* your mind, so far as to despise all other learning. *Watts.*

No bribe to captivate the mind he spreads,

Nor shines your eyes to *præjudice* your heads. *Anonym.*

2. To obstruct or injure by prejudices previously raised.

Companies of learned men, be they never so great and reverend, are to yield unto reason; the weight whereof is no whit *præjudiced* by the simplicity of his person, which doth allege it. *Hooker, b. ii. f. 7.*

Neither must his example, done without the book, *præjudice* that which is well appointed in the book. *Whitefield.*

I am not to *præjudice* the cause of my fellow-poets, though I abandon my own defence. *Dryden.*

3. To injure; to hurt; to diminish; to impair; to be detrimental to. This sense, as in the noun, is often improperly extended to meanings that have no relation to the original sense; who can read with patience of an ingredient that *præjudices* a medicine?

The strength of that law is such, that no particular nation can lawfully *præjudice* the same by any their several laws and ordinances, more than a man by his private resolutions, the law of the whole commonwealth wherein he liveth. *Hooker.*

The Danube secur'd, and the empire sav'd,

Say, is the majesty of verse retriev'd?